

Appl. No. 10/812,943
Amdt. Dated March 16, 2007
Reply to Office Action of October 19, 2006

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following amended paragraph:

[0037] In Figure 1, a roving of fiber (not shown) is arranged to be drawn from a bobbin 2, through an orifice 9, and passes through four sets of nozzles 6 housed in a heated chamber 4 which includes a controllable heating device 11. The heating device 11 is situated on the roof of the heated chamber and is effective in preventing the polymer from cooling prematurely prior to its being extruded. The nozzles 6 are connected to a pressurized reservoir (not shown) of molten polymer. A cooling chamber (not shown) 24, served by coolant gas intake 25 whereby an inert gas is blown onto the coated fibers serves to solidify the molten polymer onto the fibers as it exits the heated chamber through the exit nozzle 17. A set of fiber pick-up wheels 8 draws the roving from the bobbin and through the above-mentioned two chambers and through the exit nozzle 17. A strand alignment device 10 aligns the strands of polymer-coated fiber as it is extruded from the exit nozzle and through the fiber pick up wheels and eventually to a set of cutting wheels 12 where the reinforced fiber composites are cut into short segments or pellets 14 (Figure 2). As shown in Figure 5, the cutting wheel 12 comprises a shaft 13 which holds the cutting wheel, and a cutting wheel blade 15.

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] In a nozzle tube, it is preferred to have at least 3 rows of orifices spaced to cover at least 45° angle of spread. Also, the size of orifice in a nozzle tube is preferably small to allow more effective infiltration of polymer into the fiber roving, preferably at least no more than 0.35mm.